

Katie, con't.

Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert is master of ceremonies each year for the show. Some of this year's judges included Barbara Koster, associate producer at WXYZ-TV; Arlene Koenig, lecturer-teacher of vocal music at Oakland University; Dr. Von Washington, professor for the Black Theater, Wayne State University and Candy McKenzie, supervisor at Arthur Murray Dance Studio.

There were 19 acts this year, ranging from solos to groups, with a dozen or so participants.

Katie sang two solos, "Matchmaker" from *Fiddler on the Roof* and the theme from "Mahogany."

For the past three years, Katie has been attending the Far Conservatory in Birmingham where performing and fine arts are taught to the mentally retarded and handicapped.

"Katie took some folk dancing, but singing is really her thing," Neva says. "She likes popular songs, but her teacher tries to get her into other types of music for diversity. Her aim now is to get more into dancing so she can compete in that category, too."

Being mentally retarded means living a restricted life. That's why Neva enrolled Katie in the Far Conservatory.

"Katie is sharp enough to know what she is missing," Neva says. "I heard about the Conservatory and enrolled her because it's such a wonderful opportunity. Even in the talent show, competition isn't stressed as much as putting on a good show is."

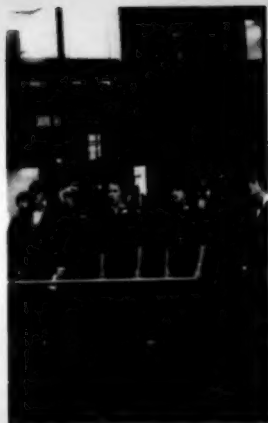


Photo by Michelle DeLand
Some carolers from the Avondale High School Madrigal Chorus.



Photo by Virginia Burns
Cousino High School Chorus.

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THANKS

My sincere thanks to the K mart Corporation and all my friends in accounting, especially the VAF Dept., for the cards, flowers, and money my family and I received during the recent loss of my mother, Danielle Payok & Family - VAF Dept.

I would like to thank the nice lady who scraped the ice off my car for me on Dec. 28. Thanks again - the girl on crutches!